

WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 09, 2005

In Attendance:

Paul Barthel; Vice-Chairman; Highway Commissioner Representative
Medical Examiner Lynda Biedrzycki; Medical Representative
Mr. John Blaszak; Education Representative
Officer Jim Bowen; Menomonee Falls Police Department
Sergeant Jim Bramm; Menomonee Falls Police Department Representative
Ms. Mitzi Dobersek; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative
Specialist Steven Kraus; City of Waukesha Police Department Representative
Lieutenant Larry LaFavor; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator
Mr. Thomas Loeffler; Bureau of Transportation Safety
Sergeant Brian Ripplinger; City of Pewaukee Police Department Representative

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Larry LaFavor at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. Thomas Loeffler, from the Bureau of Transportation Safety, made a motion to approve the minutes, and Specialist Steven Kraus, from the City of Waukesha Police Department, seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved.

TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT

Thomas Loeffler, from the Bureau of Transportation Safety, stated that a new bill was introduced on primary seat belt enforcement. He has a copy of the draft, but there have been changes to it. Seven items have been added, but the increase in fines stayed the same: \$25.00 on the first offense, and \$50.00 to \$75.00 on subsequent offenses.

Thomas Loeffler distributed a handout on the "Wisconsin Child Passenger Safety Bill". It indicates when to adjust safety seats by weight rather than by age. The bill creates a safety restraint enforcement surcharge of \$25.00 that must be imposed on any person convicted of a child safety restraint system violation. The money collected from the surcharge is deposited in the transportation fund to be used exclusively for the Child Safety Restraint System Program.

TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT CONTINUED

He next handed out an ordinance relating to the sale of motorized scooters. It states every retail commercial establishment selling motorized scooters shall have posted on the premises in a prominent and conspicuous manner at or near the display of such item a placard stating as follows: "Important notice to potential motorized scooter buyers: The operation of motorized scooters upon public roadways, bicycle ways, and sidewalks is against the law. Motorized scooters may only be operated with permission on private property, and on private roads and driveways". It also states that such establishment shall obtain from every person buying a motorized scooter a signed statement stating the buyer is aware that motorized scooters cannot be operated within the city on public roadways, bicycle ways, and sidewalks.

Thomas Loeffler then handed out an article reference two bills that have been enacted. The Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) law took effect in 2000, and a recent Wisconsin Department Of Transportation analysis of six years of new-teen-driver crash data before and after GDL enactment shows the law is working to make new drivers safer drivers. The 0.08 Blood-Alcohol Concentration (BAC) law went into effect at the end of September 2003, and the law appears to be doing the job it was intended to do. The 0.08 limit is helping make Wisconsin roads safer by reducing crashes, injuries, and deaths. Thomas Loeffler stated the results of both laws are very encouraging.

He then stated there has been 56 fatalities this year as compared to 92 one year ago, however, there have been 7 pedestrians killed this year as compared to 3 as of last year.

Thomas Loeffler then passed out a statistics sheet titled, "Some Mostly Positive Data on What's Happening On Our Roads". This fact sheet held information such as: "Odds of being caught for OWI: 200 to 1. If true, 38,000 caught means 7.6 million drunk drivers that are never caught per year. That is 21,000 per day on average." "Speeding: DOT date – 70% of motorists exceed the speed limit."

He then also passed out the "2003 Wisconsin Traffic Crash Facts" book, which includes 15-year summaries on statewide traffic crashes, deaths and injuries.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

❖ PARC Task Force

Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Larry LaFavor stated that Susie Just was unable to attend this meeting; however, she had previously requested that the Traffic Safety Commission members be informed at the meeting that PARC is looking for more funding, and that the updated video of the last DS2 exercise should be finalized soon.

❖ Bureau Of Transportation Safety

Thomas Loeffler announced his upcoming retirement, and therefore his resignation as the Wisconsin Department Of Transportation Bureau Of Traffic Safety representative on the Traffic Safety Commission. He stated the Department Of Transportation will be appointing a new representative to the Commission as soon as possible.

❖ Medical

Medical Examiner Lynda Biedrzycki handed out an up-to-date fatality list and also some statistics on "Waukesha County Traffic Related Fatalities – 2004". It stated in 2004 a total of 31 traffic related deaths were reported to the Waukesha County Medical Examiner's Office. She stated there have been four fatalities since January 1, 2005.

She also asked Thomas Loeffler what exactly is the Wisconsin Safety Belt Coalition. He stated it is a group pushing for primary seat belt enforcement made up of advocates of seat belt usage.

❖ Menomonee Falls Police Department

Sergeant Jim Bamm from the Menomonee Falls Police Department stated accidents in their jurisdiction have been down ten percent from the previous year. Additionally, there were no reported fatalities in 2004.

❖ Waukesha County Department Of Public Works

Vice-Chairman Paul Barthel stated that CTH H and CTH X will have signals put up in summer.

❖ City of Pewaukee Police Department

Sergeant Brian Ripplinger from the City of Pewaukee Police Department stated his jurisdiction had no fatalities to report for this quarter. He also reported Highway 164 northbound at the westbound on-ramp is a high crash area during rush hours.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

Lieutenant Larry LaFavor reported that the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department had three fatal accidents. One of the accidents resulted in two fatalities, which made four total fatalities since November 10, 2004. Alcohol was not a contributing factor in any of the accidents.

Date of Accident: 11-17-04:

Location: Northbound STH 164 at CTH I

This was a two-vehicle traffic accident where the driver of a Honda Civic was making a left hand turn and was hit broadside by a Toyota pick-up at the intersection. The fatality, a 24 year-old female subject, was a passenger in the Honda Civic. Flight For Life was called to the scene.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS CONTINUED

Date of Accident: 01-01-05:

Location: CTH D, .3 miles east of Moraine Hills Drive,

Adjacent to: S38 W34067 CTH D

This fatality involved a single vehicle accident where a Jeep Cherokee was traveling too fast for conditions, and the driver failed to have control of the vehicle, which ultimately struck a tree. The weather conditions were slippery due to ice/sleet. The driver was somewhat conscious and transported to Oconomowoc Hospital where she was later pronounced dead. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt. The passenger of the vehicle, who was the mother of the driver, was not conscious and was transported to Oconomowoc Hospital also. The passenger was later transferred to Froedtert Hospital due to head injuries. On 01-09-05 the passenger was pronounced dead at Froedtert Hospital as a result of injuries from the accident. The passenger was also not wearing a seatbelt.

Date of Accident: 01-31-05:

Location: CTH X at CTH H

This was a two-vehicle accident where a Chevrolet Cavalier collided with a Toyota station wagon in the middle of the intersection. At the time of the accident it appeared as though there were only minor injuries, and the 79-year old female driver of the Chevrolet Cavalier complained only of a leg injury. She, however, died three days later at Waukesha Memorial Hospital.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2005, at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Waukesha Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Sergeant Jim Bramm, from the Menomonee Falls Police Department made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Thomas Loeffler, from the Bureau of Transportation Safety. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

(Minutes approved on 05-11-05)